



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

### MINUTES OF THE 681<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 681<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on April 19, 2007 in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair  
Nelson L. Atkins, Vice Chair  
Clifton Albright  
Gary Barr  
Andrew Friedman  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Carol L. Rose

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Paul A. Jacobs  
Thomas Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Sylvia Scott Hayes

#### **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Heather Aubry, City Attorney's Office  
Michael P. Karsch, City of Los Angeles  
Devallis Rutledge, District Attorney's Office  
Honorable Dennis Zine, Independent Cities Association

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Honorable James Endman, Superior Court  
Dr. Margaret Little, Superior Court  
Bea Dieringer, LA County District Attorney's Office  
Laura Green, LA County Office of the Public Defender

#### **GUESTS**

Maria Tortorelli, Superior Court  
Pat Mitchell  
Audrey Johnson

#### **STAFF**

Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff  
Martha Arana, Commission Staff  
Audra Galang, Commission Staff

#### MEMBERS

Bertrum M. CeDillos  
*Chair*

Nelson L. Atkins  
*Vice Chair*

Clifton Albright  
Andrew Friedman  
Gary L. Barr  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Paul A. Jacobs  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Carol L. Rose  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair CeDillos called the 681<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Rutledge led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held in memory of the 32 victims of the shooting at the West Virginia Technological University. Introductions of Commissioners, Ex Officio Members, Staff and Guests followed.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

On motion of Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Atkins, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of February 15, 2007 were approved as submitted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*Update Child Care Waiting Room – Commissioner Ann Jackson  
Dr. Margaret A. Little, Superior Court*

Dr. Little reported that the San Fernando Valley and Van Nuys Courthouses' child care waiting rooms are in the construction phase with architectural design drawings pending. The Van Nuys Courthouse will require more construction than that in the San Fernando Courthouse. Cost estimates for the projects will be available as soon as the design plans are completed. The Commission will be kept current on any developments.

Chair CeDillos added that he has been meeting with outside foundations to solicit funding for the projects.

**GUEST SPEAKER, MARIA TORTORELLI, FACILITATOR, SUPERIOR COURT, FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM**

Chair CeDillos welcomed and introduced Ms. Maria Tortorelli, Family Law Facilitator at the Los Angeles Superior Court, Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Ms. Tortorelli has been with the Facilitator Program since 1998, and she currently manages the self-help resource centers, which opened in 2006, for litigants who represent themselves.

Prior to Ms. Tortorelli's current engagement as a facilitator with the Superior Court, she worked as a sole practitioner specializing in the areas family law and real property. Her experience also includes contract work for the City of Pasadena Prosecutor's Office.

Ms. Tortorelli reported the following:

- 4D Child Support refers to Section 4d of the Federal Social Security Act which is the nation's statute for creating and enforcing the Child Support on a federal, state and local partnership level.
- DCSS was formerly administered by each of the 40 counties in the State of California. In 1999, it became a state agency.
- The California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) provides assistance to parents with children who qualify for DCSS services. DCSS assists parents with locating the non custodial parents, establishing paternity, establishing support orders, collecting on support order payments, assisting the non-custodial parent to establish legal parentage and facilitating payments from parents who may want to pay a child support order through DCSS rather than a private family law order.
- The Office of the Family Law Facilitator has been a 4D partner in child support since 1996. The Family Law Facilitator Program (FLF) was created by statute. Its guidelines are found in the Family Law Code Sections 10000 et seq. which set forth that the program was established to assist individuals with existing cases involving child support, spousal support or health insurance.
- The FLF does not initiate new cases or offer legal representation or confidentiality to individuals who seek assistance. Individuals seeking FLF assistance are self represented. FLF can offer assistance to both parties – the petitioner or respondent in the case -- because no legal representation is offered, and therefore, no conflict of interest exists.
- FLF offers education on establishing child support or paternity, assistance with filling out legal forms, and provides referrals to family court services or other community agencies that help parents and children. Although legal representation is not given by FLF in cases of paternity, FLF assists parents in obtaining the representation of an attorney.

Following and question and answer forum, Chair CeDillos thanked Ms. Tortorelli for her informative presentation.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the 680<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:19 p.m.